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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **South Dakota Guard units receive a visitor from home**

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*Unit Public Affairs Representative*  
*Bravo Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 147<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery*

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, IRAQ – Closing in on the end of their deployment, South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery ceased operations for a day for a safety stand-down and to welcome a visitor from home, Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, the adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard.

“It means a lot to the Soldiers to have the general come at the most psychologically difficult time of the deployment,” said Capt. Jason Warr of Rapid City, executive officer of Bravo Battery. “Getting this visit was a good reminder of the support we have back home and I am certain this will help carry the guys through to the end”.

South Dakota Guardsmen gathered to listen to the adjutant general provide some words of encouragement on heading into the homestretch of the deployment. The gathering was the first time that the majority of the field artillery unit has been together since they arrived in Kuwait back in early January.

“You are all doing an outstanding job,” said Doohen. “Keep focused, don’t let up, and continue with your level of professionalism and ‘can do’ work ethic.”

Doohen commented on how South Dakota’s Guard presence and reputation is well known all over Iraq.

“Everywhere you go, everyone recognizes the South Dakota coyote patch and the hard work and determination of those Soldiers wearing it,” said Doohen. “I am just proud to be a part of this great Guard team.”

As Bravo Battery Soldiers head into their final month of missions, it is theater policy to conduct a safety stand-down day to ensure all Soldiers remain focused and not become

complacent in their daily operations. Soldiers attended several safety briefings regarding vehicle rollovers, escalation of force, electrical hazards, and other common safety threats that Soldiers may encounter.

“With our time here drawing near, it was a good stopping place,” said Sgt. Jason Lunders of Salem, S.D. “As hard as it may be, we need to try not to think about going home quite yet and keep our focus on the mission at hand.”

Doohen also had an opportunity to first visit members of the 114th Fighter Wing, South Dakota Air National Guard at Joint Base Balad. The Airmen of the 114th recently began their deployment in support of the United States Air Force’s Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) and Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) rotation plans. Currently, more than 350 Airmen of the state’s 114th Fighter Wing are deployed to seven countries throughout the world in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

After visiting the 114th at Balad, Doohen flew down to Contingency Operating Base Adder on Aug. 21, to visit with the Soldiers of Bravo Battery. The leaders of the field artillery unit briefed the adjutant general on the unit’s mission and provided him a tour of the unit’s facilities and equipment.

The members of the 114th Fighter Wing and Battery B are expected to return in the fall of 2008.

Photo Cut Lines:



**20080821-A-0933B-003:** Chief Warrant Officer Michael Johnson, unit maintenance technician from of Sioux Falls, S.D., explains the capabilities of the Armored Security Vehicle (ASV) to Maj. Gen Steven Doohen, the adjutant general of South Dakota, during a visit to Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery on Aug. 21 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (Army photo by Spc. Charles J. Butler)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/20080821-A-0933B-003.JPG>



**20080821-A-0933B-010:** Specialist Joshua Baer of Freeman, S.D., shakes hands with Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, the adjutant general of South Dakota, during a visit to Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery on Aug. 21 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (Army photo by Spc. Charles J. Butler)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/20080821-A-0933B-010.JPG>



**20080821-A-0933B-021:** Specialist Craig Evenson of Clear Lake, S.D., shakes hands with Maj. Gen. Steven, the adjutant general of South Dakota, during a visit to Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery on Aug. 21 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (Army photo by Spc. Charles J. Butler)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/20080821-A-0933B-021.JPG>





**20080821-A-0933B-024:** Major General Steven Doohen, the adjutant general of South Dakota, speaks to the members of Battery B, 1st Battalion 147th Field Artillery during his visit on Aug. 21 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (Army photo by Spc. Charles J. Butler)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/20080821-A-0933B-024.JPG>

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**NOTE 1:** Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is a South Dakota Army National Guard unit headquartered in Salem and Sioux Falls. The unit is currently stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder located on Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad. The 180 Soldiers of Battery B arrived in Iraq in early January and are conducting various security missions for the next 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**NOTE 2:** Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 1,000 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

Currently, more than 550 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia. More than 3,600 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.